

REMARKS

By Official Action mailed *September 2, 2004*, restriction to one of the following inventions is required:

Group I: **Claims 1-7, drawn to an optical attenuator, classified in class 385, subclass 140.**

Group II: **Claims 8-14, drawn to a method for manufacturing an optical attenuator, classified in class 438, subclass 21.**

In response, Applicants hereby elect *Invention I*, upon which *claims 1-7* are readable.

Non-elected claims 8-14, for which a divisional application is being filed concurrently herewith, have been cancelled.

Early examination on the merits is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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